

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126096

EXDIS USOECD FOR COOPER

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 05002 ACTION TEHRAN INFO SECSTATE
JIDDA MOSCOW ISLAMABAD 29 MAY 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T SECTO 05002

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,IR,US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI

1. DURING SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ZAHEDI ON ANOTHER
SUBJECT SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 28, ZAHEDI ASKED WHAT THE
SECRETARY COULD TELL HIM ABOUT PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT.
THE SECRETARY SAID THE TALKS HAD NOT BROUGHT OUT
ANYTHING NEW IN THE SAUDI POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM. THE SAUDIS HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THE LIKUD VICTORY IN ISRAEL FOR THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 126096

PEACE PROCESS, AND WE HAD ASSURED THEM THAT WE
REMAINED COMMITTED TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO
ACHIEVE A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO OIL, THE SECRETARY SAID, PRINCE
FAHD HAD MADE CLEAR THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT LINK
OIL PRICES TO THE ACHEIVEMENT OF PROGRESS OR LACK OF
IT ON A PEACE SETTLEMENT. FAHD HAD SAID HE WAS

CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF AN OIL PRICE INCREASE ON POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT, IF SAUDI ARABIA FOUND ITSELF ALONE, HE COULD NOT SAY THEY WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH SOME INCREASE IN THE FUTURE.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT FAHD HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND WE HAD EXPLAINED WHAT WE WERE DOING THERE. WE HAD MENTIONED TO THE SAUDIS THE IDEA OF A CONSORTIUM OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR SOMALIA, AND THE SAUDIS HAD ENCOURAGED THIS IDEA. THEY HAD SAID THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA, AND ALSO TO SUDAN, WOULD FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AID. FAHD HAD ALSO SPOKEN HIGHLY OF SAUDI RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID HE ALSO WANTED TO GIVE ZAHEDI OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE RECENT REMOVAL OF PODGORNYY FROM THE SOVIET POLITBORO. SINCE THE LAST SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS, PODGORNYY HAD BEEN IN TROUBLE AT BOTH THE SENIOR AND MIDDLE LEVELS OF THE SOVIET HIERARCHY FOR HIS NEGATIVE POSITION TOWARD A NUMBER OF ISSUES FAVORED BY THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. HE HAD ALSO BEEN CRITICIZED THAT HIS AFRICAN TRIP HAD NOT BEEN A SUCCESS. THIS HAD ALL COME TO A HEAD IN THE DECISION TO REMOVE HIM. OUR ASSESSMENT WAS THAT HIS REMOVAL DID NOT REFLECT MAJOR POLICY CHANGES OR A RESHAPING OF THE POLITBORO.

5. FINALLY, THE SECRETARY SAID WE APPRECIATE THE SHAH'S HELPFULNESS WITH BHUTTO IN SETTING UP THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING MEETING IN PARIS WITH AZIZ AHMED. HE WOULD REPORT THE RESULTS TO ZAHEDI

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 126096

FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM PARIS. ZAHEDI SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED. VANCE. UNQUOTE HABIB.

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